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4-Day Grace Period for Vaccine Doses Administered in Arizona

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) allows for most vaccine doses administered within 4 days of the recommended minimum age or interval to be counted as valid. However, ACIP does not allow a 4-day grace period between doses of varicella and MMR vaccines. They must be administered on the same day, or at least 28 days apart.

The Arizona Immunization Program Office (AIPO) accepts vaccine doses given within the ACIP-approved grace period as valid for child care and school entry. The 4-day grace period includes the first MMR, which may be counted if it was administered no sooner than 4 days before the child's first birthday.

It is **not recommended** that providers schedule immunization doses prior to the ACIP recommended minimum ages and intervals. The *Summary of Recommendations for Childhood and Adolescent Immunization* including guidance regarding minimum ages and intervals for vaccine doses may be found at <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf>. ACIP's "General Recommendations on Immunization," published December 1, 2006, is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5515.pdf>. The table of "Recommended and minimum ages and intervals between vaccine doses of routinely recommended vaccines" can be found on page 3.